Suspension of work in Scott and Saxby Limited.

*54. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a suspension of work since November 1992 in Scott. and Saxby Ltd. under the administrative control of [illegible] of Steel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the workers are not getting their wages since May, 1992;

(d) whether PF contributions have not been deposited since 1980 and ESI amount has not been deposited since 1984 and if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether inspite of suspension of work the management is operating the business through sub-contractors while keeping the permanent workers idle;

(f) what action is being contemplated by Government to start normal operation of the Company through regular workers; and

(g) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On account of illegal and coercive acts resorted to by the work men of Scott & Saxby Ltd. (SSL) and due to frequent stoppage of work in the works and working sites, management had to order suspension of work with effect from 14.11.1992 at the works and the then existing sites of SSL as per provisions of Section 2(1) of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(c) As on 31.3.1994, there were salary arrears of Rs. 28.76 lacs covering the period of a lock out in the company from November, 1983 to 30th April, 1984 and default in salary payments from May, 1986 to September, 1986. However, from October, 1986 to September, 1992, a month's salary has been paid on regular basis. The salary for the month of October, 1992 could not be paid due to workers' agitation from that month onwards.

Against the earlier salary arrears, Company has since paid advances to employees from time to time amounting to Rs. 15.11 lakhs approximately. Full payments have also been made to all the employees who have opted for company's voluntary retirement schemes.

(d) Amounts payable to Provident Fund have been fully deposited. Amounts payable to ESI have also been fully deposited excluding disputed and subjudice claims.

(e) Yes, Sir. Sub-contractors have been appointed by the company to carry out, works at new sites. Suspension of work has been declared only at the works and the then existing sites. It is not applicable to the head quarters at Calcutta from where the operations at new sites are being carried out.

(f) and (g) Management has already held several meetings with the representatives of the recognised unions at bipartite and tripartite levels for restoring normaley in the company. A draft Memorandum of Settlement was also initiated with the leaders of the recognised unions. However, it could not be finalised due to intra-union rivalty and the continued agitation of a break away group.

Amount spent on welfare schemes in Gujarat

*55. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent during the financial years 1990-91 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 so far towards Welfare Schemes in Gujarat State, District-wise;

(b) whether these Welfare Scheme have given special attention/priority to backward and most backward classes;